

# THE COLONNADE

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bobcatnewsnetwork.com

## Meg and Morgan get fit: GC yoga class review

Meghan Lindstrom  
News Editor  
&  
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Asst. A&L Editor

College is a new start so getting into a fitness routine is a must for some students. It is difficult to get into a rhythm with working out, but fitness classes help keep a structured routine every week.

The GC Wellness center offers free fitness classes for students on campus. Different classes vary in difficulty and intensity, so we recently went to the all-levels yoga class taught by Isadora Mosch to try out a class.

We aren't the fittest people around, so we were looking forward to seeing what this yoga class entailed for us.

As soon as we stepped into the room we felt welcomed and in a safe space. At the beginning of the yoga class, Mosch told us to listen to our

bodies, essentially meaning do not strain yourself.

Most of the exercises were not too difficult. For us, at least, the most challenging poses were the balancing stretches (we may also be the clumsiest people alive).

However, others like the warrior poses and lunges stretch out those leg muscles and tighten them. This does hurt a little but it's a pain that feels good once pushed through.

"I never teach a move that I'm not familiar with

personally, that being said, I also never teach moves that I don't do," said Isadora Mosch, yoga instructor and philosophy lecturer. "If I find something dangerous, if I've been substantially injured in a pose, (or) if I've been in a class where other students were getting injured in a pose, I keep those off the table."

She leads a 50-minute class and reminds students to change their mindsets and let go of everyday life.

The good thing about

Isadora's class is you do not have to push yourself into uncomfortable positions if you do not want to. For most poses, she demonstrates different levels of the pose and instructs the class to choose which one is best for them.

"I always give modifications," Mosch said. "I want to create a space where people don't feel like they have to look better than the person next to them or stretch more or be more flexible or stronger."

After intense poses, there is a cool-down period of more stretching the entire body. We are then lead to a reflection of the class. We think about our breathing and relax as we release all the stresses of the day prior to this moment.

The yoga class acts as a great reliever to GC students who lead a busy college life.

"Just having that little break from their regular daily stress allows them to kind of reset when they leave," Mosch said.

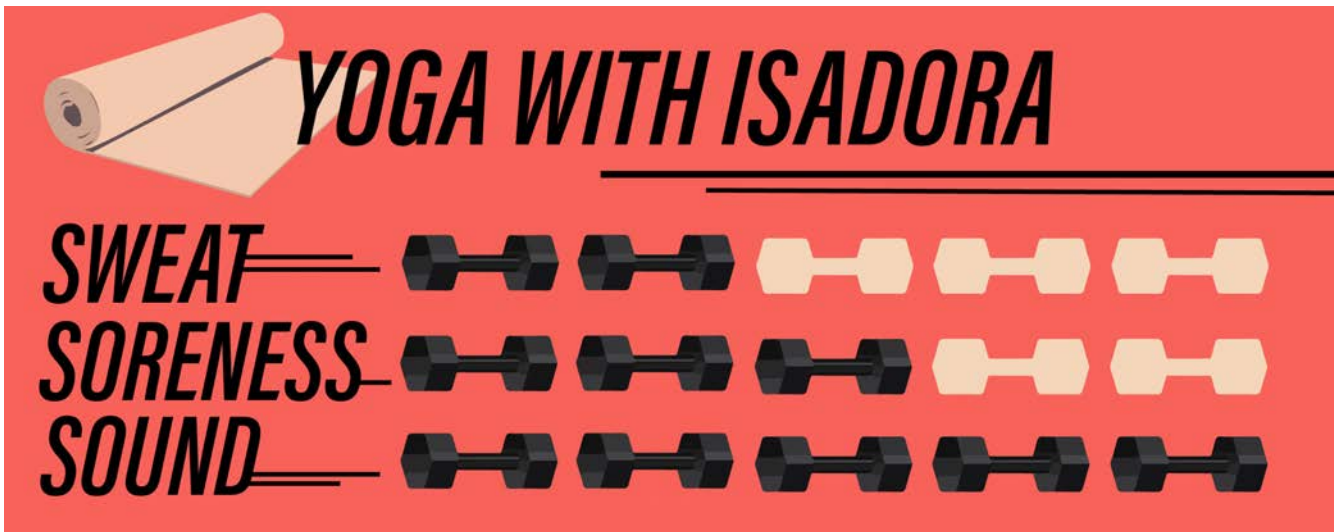
Another factor that adds to the serenity of this class is the music. The music matches the flow patterns and positions throughout the class. According to Mosch, she plans this out so that faster, more intense positions have more upbeat songs with words, while slow stretches have soft music without lyrics.

Afterward, we left the room feeling relaxed and ready to tackle the homework for the evening.

"After the class, I felt a lot more relaxed," said Quinn Mioti, a junior nursing major. "I am currently a little sore, which is a good thing because that's how I know I got a good workout."

This yoga class not only relieved our stress but also alleviate a lot of anxiety we previously had about the school week. Not only was I able to challenge my body, but I was able to challenge my mind to

"I thought the class was awesome and I would highly recommend it to any of my friends," Mioti said.



Angie Yones | Art Director



Lila Schell | Staff Photographer

Kai Jeffries attempts to trap the ball during a hot August practice

## GC soccer touts two award-winning women

Matthew Gordon  
Contributing Writer

Bobcat soccer players Kai Jeffries, a junior defender, and Cassie Balzano, a junior forward, received preseason all-conference recognition this season.

The honor comes on the heels of an impressive 11-5-5 campaign last season that ended valiantly by taking NCAA quarterfi-

nalists Columbus State to PK's in the Peach Belt Conference championship.

Balzano felt surprised and honored to receive all-conference, saying that she was excited to be selected among the best in the Peach Belt. Balzano said her greatest strengths were her off ball quickness, distribution, crosses and, most importantly, goal scoring ability.

She sees this as an op-

portunity to excel as a leader and motivate her teammates. In doing so, she will have the opportunity to address the team's consistency issues which plagued them a year ago.

"We would bring our best against bigger opponents, but we need better consistency this season," Balzano said.

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## Understanding GC's on-campus drinking policy

Nicole Hazlett  
Asst. News Editor

GC is a wet campus, and with that designation comes expectations and rules students must uphold.

"At Public Safety our objective is simple: to keep our community safe and ensure that everyone gets home," said chief of GC police Brett Stanelle.

Public Safety is in control of making and enforcing decisions that will help and protect students.

According to the GC student handbook, "whenever alcoholic beverages are served, equally accessible, alternative, nonalcoholic beverages and snacks, or food must also be served."

Based on this qualification, downtown establishments are considered restaurants instead of exclusively bars. Meaning, any student can go into a downtown establishment

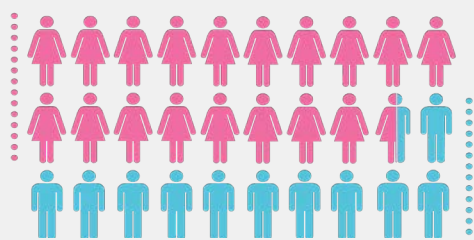
because food and non-alcoholic beverages are served. Public safety collaborates with Fraternity and Sorority life to ensure all organization mem-

bers are following state laws and school policies in regards to alcohol.

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### NEWS

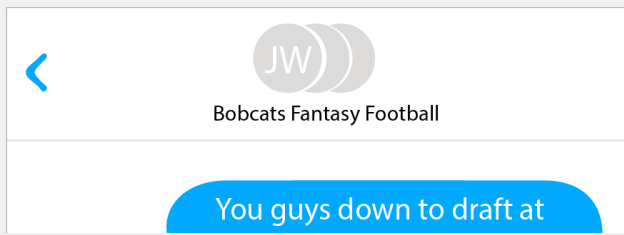


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GC has always has a higher ratio of girls than guys, but why

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How do GC students keep up with their fantasy football teams

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#### MAC MILLER REMEMBERED

A tribute to the late Mac Miller in honor of the first anniversary of his death

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NEWS

Who run the world? Girls.

Women vastly outnumber men on GC’s historically all-female campus

Lilia Starnes  
Staff Writer

Of the 5,987 undergraduate students at GC, 62% are female. However, this vast percentage fails to answer the age-old GC question: where are all the men?

1967 was the official year GC opened its doors to men and said goodbye to an exclusively female campus. In its beginning years, GC was constantly changing in regards to rules, regulations and the name of the school.

“Some of the women were unhappy because of the female community that had been formed, but many were happy because men brought a different aspect of fun,” said Bob Wilson, university historian.

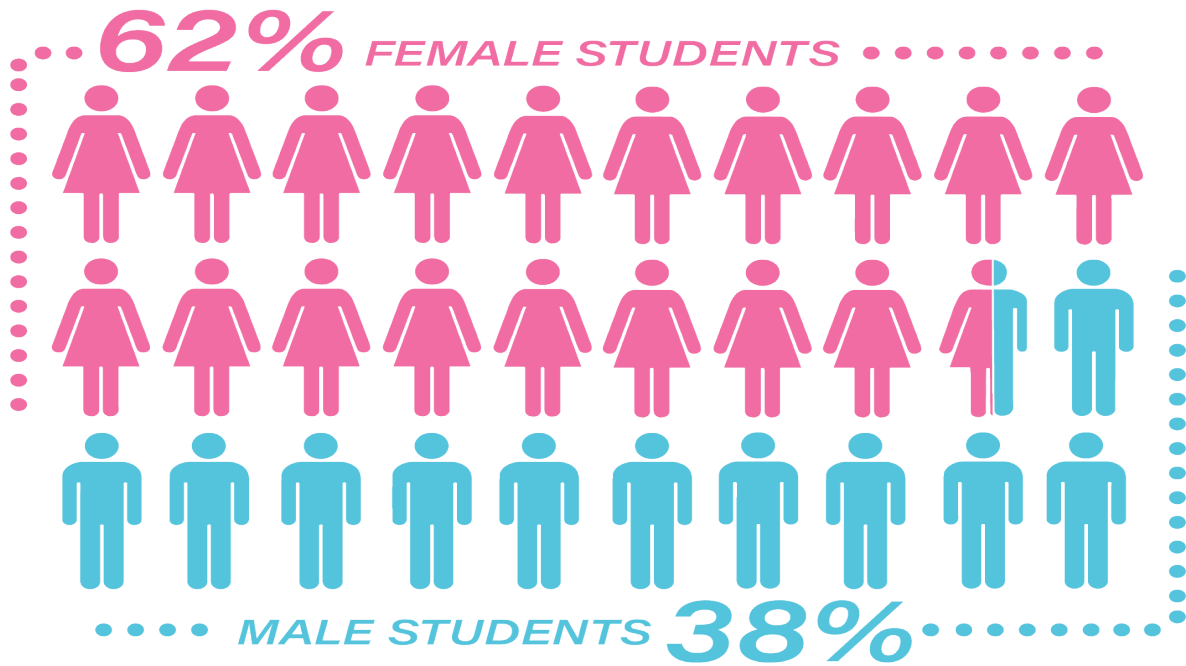
1967 was a monumental year for GC, the small campus of 1,216 women grew to 1,401 men and women who all aspired to obtain a degree.

In the earlier years, GC followed in the footsteps of other women’s colleges and required that women wear a uniform that adhered to the set guidelines.

37 years before men arrived on campus the school can be described as “a college of strict rules and regulations. Victorian, rather puritanical,” written in the book, “A Centennial History of Georgia College.”

As the years passed, the strict rules and regulations decreased and the campus life developed culture. It was not until 1996 that Georgia College and State University became the official name of GC. The school first started out as Georgia Normal & Industrial College and then renamed to Georgia State College for Women and proceed with four other variations of

BOY TO GIRL RATIO



Angie Yones | Art Director

names. It only took six tries and adding men to land on a permanent name.

“While Georgia College has typically had a higher ratio of females than males, it is important to note that nationally females make up more of the undergraduate enrollment population,” said Gwen Chretien, executive director of admissions.

With women making up more of the undergraduate enrollment and a large number of population, oftentimes it seems like there are more women in a class because most likely there are.

“I’m an art major, so I haven’t really had many guys in my class,” said Alyssa Clements, a junior art major. “It doesn’t really bother me but it is definitely prominent in my major.”

Those questioning the ratio are not wrong. There are facts behind the numbers that prove that GC and a large number of other universities are also unbalanced in the means of women and men. The National Center for Education Statistics discloses that there are 11.3 million women and 8.6 million men enrolled in college in the fall of 2019.

“I think historically we’ve probably attracted more female students due to their interest in education and also our nursing program,” Chretien said.

While that may be the case to the burning question of “where are all the men?” GC has made significant strides in comparison to its humble beginnings.

“Originally GC was catered to students within a 50-mile radius,” Wilson said.

According to the 2018 Georgia College Fact Book, there are 5,958 U.S. undergraduate students and 55 international, times have truly changed since the 50-mile radius rule.

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Sept. 5	Sept. 26	Oct. 24
Sept. 12	Oct. 3	Nov. 7
Sept. 19	Oct. 17	

The Colonnade is looking for staff writers, editors, designers, videographers, and more for the 2019-2020 school year. Contact [thegcsucolonnade@gmail.com](mailto:thegcsucolonnade@gmail.com) for more.

NEWS

Alcohol

Continued from page 1

“If we have alcohol from a vendor or have the event at a venue, I have to include a copy of the vendors’ liquor license and liability insurance,” said Nina Minsk, AOPi social chairman.

This rule is set to keep students safe at all events. The Greek community is held to the same standard as any on-campus club.

All GC students can legally drink in their residences once they turn 21. Because GC is a wet campus this includes dorm rooms. This would not be allowed on a dry campus.

Because GC is not a dry

campus, there are many opportunities for GC to teach the student body about low-risk alcohol decisions. This is another area Public Safety comes in.

Rachel Pope is the Prevention Coordinator at GC. Her primary role at GC is to teach students how to make low-risk choices in regards to their health. Pope and GC teach freshmen about the risks that come with drinking. There are meetings that each student goes to in order to pass their freshman seminar class. On top of that, the alcohol.edu class is required before each student moves into the dorm

Pope and GC teach

freshmen about the risks that come with drinking. There are meetings that each student goes to in order to pass their freshman seminar class. On top of that, the alcohol.edu class is required before each student moves into the dorm

or apartment as a freshman. These programs are aimed toward prevention. However, if this campus was a dry campus these programs would not be given since there would be no alcohol allowed on campus whatsoever.

All student events with alcohol are required to be registered with the program, Get Connected.

Get Connected is a GC website that aims to bring students more awareness to the clubs and activities going on around campus. Get Connected is a place to register club events and

register if alcohol will be at the event. If the club clicks yes to alcohol, there will be a

conversation with Public Safety about when they will be arriving and what kind of alcoholic beverages are allowed at the event.

Regardless of what students choose to do on campus, there are plenty of ways GC keeps everyone safe.



Angie Yones | Art Director

Special Collections acts as a unique resource

Kristen Maddox  
Staff Writer

Special Collections offers GC students access to valuable records and historical objects.

The staff at Special Collections can help students find anything to meet their needs. Special Collections preserves the life of local communities by keeping records, like archives, heirlooms and trial papers.

These archives are not only for history majors. Any students wanting to enhance projects, papers, or research are welcome to discover unique items and archives at Special Collections.

“There is so much more that’s available,” said Holly Croft, digital archivist and Assistant Professor of Library Science. “There are so many things that aren’t just online, and they can really, really make your projects so much better. So

talk to your archivist and see what they can find.”

Special Collections protects and preserves history, so the rules for using the materials are essential. Archives must be handled with care. Students should not bend, trace or write on any documents. Food, drink, bags, personal books and papers are not allowed while students utilize materials. “Just like if a friend was letting you borrow their books or clothes, you would return it to them in the same condition, if not better, than it was in when they gave it to you,” said Ashley Johnson, a freshman history major.

Milledgeville is the home of Flannery O’Connor, an American novelist, short story writer and essayist. GC Special Collections has over 7,000 of her drafts and completed works. “We have approximate-

ly 300 books from her private library and correspondence to and from friends, colleagues and family,” said Nancy Davis-Bray, associate director for Special Collections.

Using anything from the Flannery O’Connor collection requires special rules. Students can only access her records by prearrangement and photocopying is not allowed under any circumstances. Students cannot even bring a cell phone with them while using O’Connor archives.

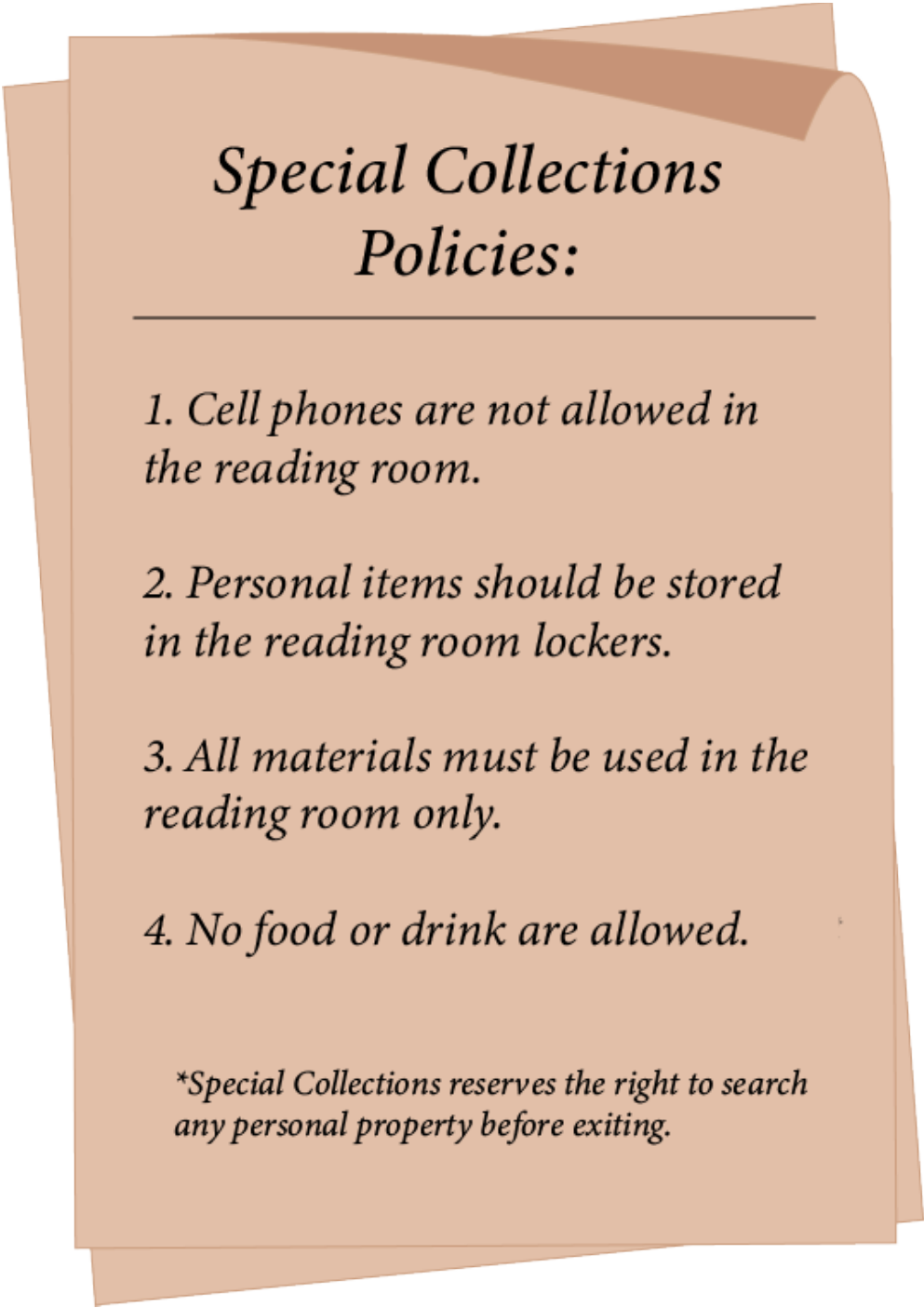
Johnson described using Special Collections to create a persona for her GC1Y project. The persona she created was a female student attending Georgia State College for Women from 1944 to 1945. Her task was to write letters as this persona and use archives to back them up. When Johnson found student handbooks from the 1940s,

she hit a treasure trove.

“The handbooks include everything a student needed to know,” Johnson said. “And comparing how things were on campus back then to now was definitely interesting.”

Special Collections is open 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. This is a valuable resource for any GC student and should be utilized for projects, research and more, but re-

member to handle these valuable items with care. Researcher requests are available for students, however, it is not required that they are filled out with the exception of the O’Connor archives.



Angie Yones | Art Director & Lindsay Stevens | Managing Editor





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SPORTS

A Bobcat’s guide to fantasy football

Chris Collier  
Staff Writer

The Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears will open the NFL’s 100th season when they clash in front of thousands at Soldier Field during the night of Sept. 5.

It’s the introduction to an NFL season featuring heavy-weight matchups, dramatic storylines and, of course, fantasy football.

According to Fox Sports, an estimated 40 million people will participate in fantasy football this year. It’s a global phenomenon in which players put themselves into the shoes of an NFL coach, managing a hand-picked roster of NFL superstars on a weekly basis.

Fantasy football is growing by the season. For the uninitiated, it’s never too late to jump in. If you’re a rookie, it never hurts to hear from grizzled fantasy football veterans.

Nathan Pak, a senior management-information-systems major, said the way you construct your draft night will determine the kind of

experience you have. “I think a big group with maybe some pizza and wings—that’s a good time,” Pak said. “A lot of times when you have people separate, a lot of people will miss their first couple picks.”

Chandler New, a junior management information systems major, started playing fantasy football three years ago with his friends.

Although fantasy football users have a variety of websites to draft from, New said users unfamiliar with the game should eye ESPN because of its intuitive user interface.

Once your group decides which site to play on, it’s essential to research which NFL stars to aim for in the draft.

Sports Illustrated lists Alvin Kamara, Christian McCaffery and Odell Beckham Jr. as some of the top fantasy prospects for the 2019 campaign.

Omar Abuaisheh, a senior business management major, has been playing fantasy football since he was a senior in high school. Abuaisheh

advises newcomers to put their fandom aside as they build their team.

“If you’re like, ‘I like the Saints, [and] I want to keep everybody on the Saints’—that’s not going to work,” Abuaisheh said.

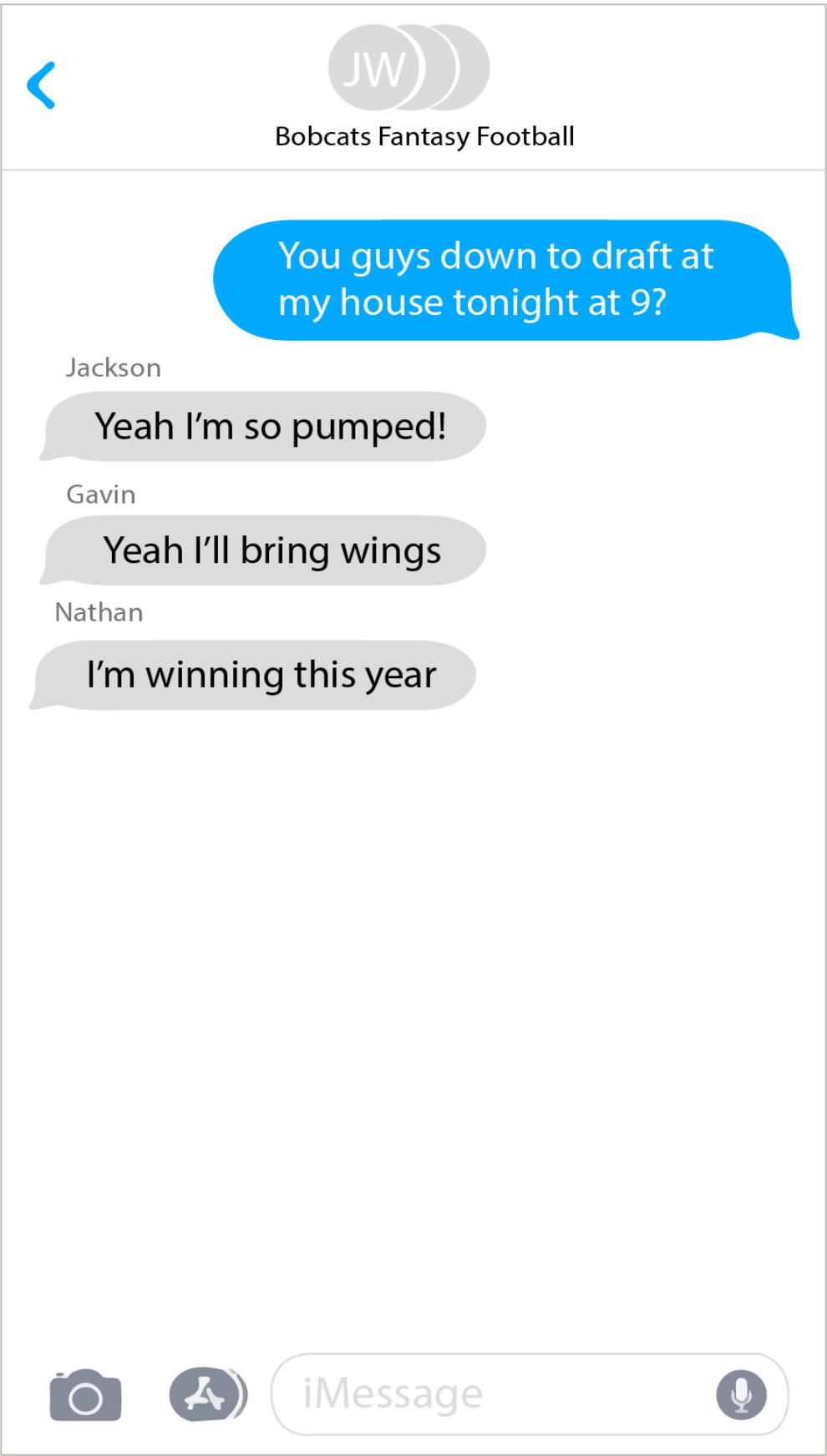
Pak has a draft strategy that he implements into his team each year.

“Don’t value the quarterback too much,” Pak said. “I always go running back early, like the first round for sure; maybe [the] second round as well.”

The NFL season is a long and unpredictable one, so player management is integral to your team’s chances of success. New said there are tools available if your season doesn’t begin the way you had hoped.

“If injuries pop up, you just have to keep your eye on the waiver wire and see who’s available to be picked up,” New said. “And from there, if it’s a long-term injury, you just have to drop them and move on from the player.”

New encourages NFL fans at GC to give fantasy football a



Angie Yones | Art Director

Soccer

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“We would bring our best against bigger opponents, but we need better consistency this season,” Balzano said.

The leaders of the Peach Belt Conference anticipate a dominant offensive sea-

son for Balzano. Last season she was third on the team, scoring five goals and two assists in 21 games.

Jeffries also felt surprised to receive the honor, but sees this as an opportunity to lead her teammates. She believes her passion and close personal bonds with them will go a long way in the locker room.

On the field, she’ll lead

the defense with her versatility and athletic prowess.

“I feel I’m very athletic and fast for my position at center back,” Jeffries said.

She, like Balzano, expects big things from the Bobcats this season in spite of losing a large senior class. In place of veteran leadership, this Bobcats squad will tout a bevy of talented freshman.

In order to achieve their

shot, even if they’ve never experienced it before. “Find some people who

are interested in doing it, even if it’s not your direct friends,” New said. “See if

you can join a league, and it’s always fun no matter who you’re playing against.”



Kai Jeffries dribbles the ball before practice last week

Courtesy of Lila Schell



Cassie Balzano takes practice shots before practice last week

Courtesy of Lila Schell





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### WHEN: THURSDAYS 6:30 - 7 P.M.

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## ARTS &amp; LIFE

# SEXUAL health

## Milly and GC provide affordable contraceptives

Ava Leone  
Website Managing  
Editor

Students are left wondering where they can acquire safe sex options including implants, IUD's, shots, pills and condoms, which were described in last week's article, "Let's talk about sex baby, let's talk about IUD."

The "it feels bad" or "we don't really need protection" excuses should no longer exist with the plentiful locations in Milledgeville aimed at keeping students and community members sexually protected. Although not every form is free, birth control methods are very accessible for Milledgeville community members and GC students.

### West Campus Health Services

West Campus' Health Services provides the pill and Depo Provera, the birth control shot, according to Director of Student Health Services Britt McRae. They will not provide condoms this year because of the high price.

"Health Services provides annual women's health exams that provide preventative assessments for illnesses associated with female patients," said McRae. The annual women's health exam is required to qualify for birth control through Health Services.

"The exams also include breast exams, STI test-

ing, hematology analytics (blood work) and for females aged 21 and older, Pap smears," McRae said.

McRae said routine health care visits can help find problems early or prevent health problems before they occur. She said if problems are found early, they may be easier to treat and less likely to pose serious risks to a person's health.

Some students stress about the pricing of birth control and if they can afford it, as some are more expensive than others. Most insurance companies

cover the cost of generic pill forms of birth control but other forms, like the IUD, can run up to \$1,200 without insurance coverage.

"I just realized that birth control isn't free for everyone," said Caroline Lohn, a sophomore graphic design major. "My roommate has insurance, and it's (the pill) not covered for her. Even if it's 15 or 20 bucks, that's something that insurance should cover."

### The Women's Center

Students can snag free condoms from the Wom-

en's Center located on Clarke street in a bowl on the second floor, so students can avoid awkward confrontation. The Women's Center works in conjunction with the Cultural Center and The HUB to create an all-inclusive environment on campus.

Ordering birth control online helps many people who have limited time. Companies like Nurx, HeyDoctor, The Pill Club and Simple Health send birth control through the mail for free or at a low price. Sometimes online

consultations are necessary and forms like the pill and patch are popular.

Freshmen have the added bonus to access condoms in their dorms via request to the CA on duty. However, some students find confrontation with their building staff uncomfortable and therefore do not ask for the provided protection.

Director of the Women's Center Jennifer Graham said the center restocks its free bowl of condoms about every two weeks. She said the Women's Center purchas-

es about 1,000 condoms every year and sometimes get gifts from nonprofits.

According to Undercover Condoms & More, condoms can range in price from about \$100 to about \$2,000 per 1,000 count.

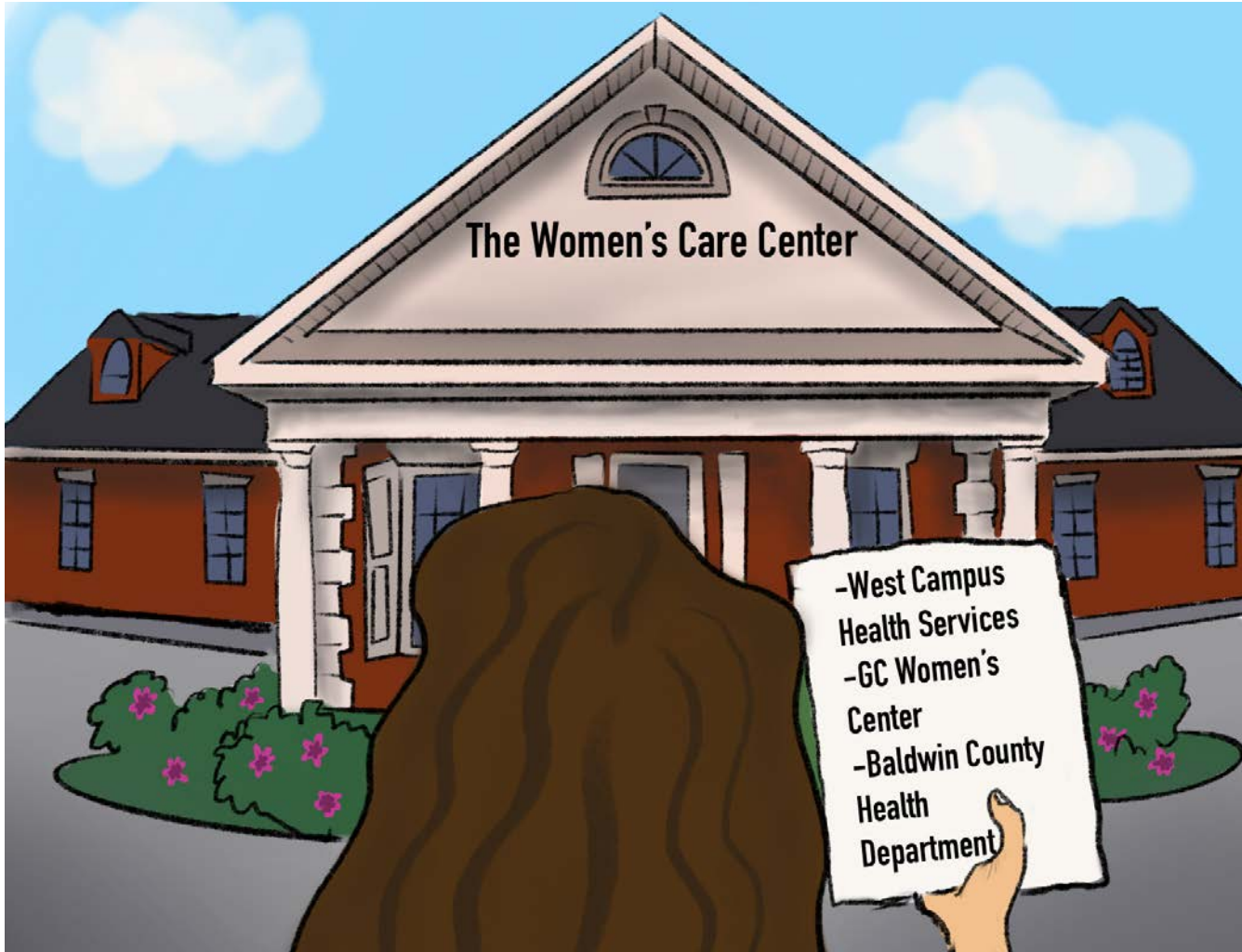
"It's not a ton (of condoms). We definitely strive every year to do some education around sexual health and its various forms," said Graham. "Some of our student workers host a podcast called Lady Bits in a format that's hopefully more accessible."

### Baldwin County Health Department

Baldwin County Health Department offers a broad range of birth control options. A clinical appointment and prescription are required to pick up the birth control from a pharmacy. Most forms have a \$25 down fee, and the cost rises from there.

### Milledgeville OB-GYN Associates & the Women's Care Center

Milledgeville OB-GYN Associates and the Women's Care Center are two local clinics within a five-mile radius of GC. These clinics are perfect for students who have limited transportation. The Women's Care Center offers all birth control forms except Nexplanon, the arm implant, while the Baldwin County Health Department and Milledgeville OB-GYN Associates do.



Emma Lammers | Asst. Graphic Design

## Students shop impulsively when under pressure

Erin Guillano  
Staff Writer

If you are a GC student, you know that activities are limited in Milledgeville. Once a hectic day of classes winds down to an end, students have the option to spend money on unnecessary items and food. What do we call this to justify our actions? Impulse buying.

Impulse buying is purchasing an item or type of food on a sudden whim. It is generally not planned and takes place on a sudden impulse. Students impulsively buy things when experiencing stress, boredom and peer pressure.

"There's nothing else to do when you're bored but to spend some money," said Faith Wellmaker, a freshman undecided major.

Wellmaker is new to the GC campus this fall, and she has already been swoon into the trend of impulse buying.

"I tend to buy more stuff when I see it in person, so I [will] most like-

ly buy things from T. J. Maxx and Walmart like home decor and makeup," Wellmaker said.

She further explained that if an item she likes catches her eye, it is instantly added to her cart. She typically aims for the clearance and sales sections for the

more affordable items.

"I definitely impulse buy things, and it is not good for me either," Wellmaker said, "My friends and I usually find ourselves shopping late at night for no reason other than being bored."

She followed up with how she falls into the trap of impulse buying frequently when she wants to save money for more important things.

For girls, impulse buy-

ing is a range of items from home decor, candles, clothes and shoes to fast food and snacks.

"It's mainly my roommate that convinces me to spend money, but I can more easily spend one hundred dollars on decor than a hundred dollars on food and school," said Bianka Kellie, a junior marketing major.

As Kellie said, should we blame our friends and roommates for our impulse buying habits?

"I have tried to get into thrift shopping and late night drives to the store, but it has always just made more sense to me to shop online, especially with the selection of stores Milledgeville has to offer," said Haley Gibbs, a junior psychology major.

Gibbs enjoys shopping with her friends when either bored or in the mood to spend money, but when alone she tends to do the majority of her shopping online.

"Why would I drive all

the way to Walmart or T. J. Maxx when I have virtually any store at my fingertips, it just doesn't make much sense to me," Gibbs said.

She continued on to explain that she is dissatisfied with the lack of variety that Milledgeville stores have to offer, therefore she tends to impulse buy online.

The lingering question now is, do guys impulse shop? The answer is yes.

"For me, impulse shopping per say is more of buying food, not material items," said Gage Sharp, a sophomore exercise science major. "For example, if I am walking home from downtown with my friends, I will all [of] the sudden find myself in line at the check out with a chicken biscuit."

A great deal of GC students have no other choice but to fall victim to impulse buying.

It was made apparent that a fair amount of students participate in "whim" shopping when either bored or under the influence of their friends. Be careful, you may be next!



Angie Yones | Art Director



09.04.2019

KATIE O'NEAL, A&L EDITOR  
MORGAN SIMPSON, ASST. A&L EDITOR

## ARTS &amp; LIFE

## Mac Miller: an artist defining a generation

Eric Boyd  
Sports Editor

He was one of the greatest musicians of the 20th century, but I did not care when Prince died. When he died, the Minnesota Twins turned all the lights in their stadium purple. Celebrities flocked to social media to share heartfelt tributes. My high school chemistry teacher cried. I saw the news on Twitter that morning, went to school, and did not think about it again. He made good music, but Prince was not still releasing chart topping projects in 2016, so why was he relevant?

As far as his fans were concerned, his role in their life might as well be over. He had played his part in their experience with music.

That all changed for me on September 7th, 2018 when Mac Miller died. I finally understood how someone you would never met could have such an impact on you. Suddenly, I was the one mourning for someone whose voice I had only heard through speakers and whose face I only saw on screen.

I was not the only one. Every friend, peer and random face in the crowd who listened to Mac stopped to reflect on his loss.

I grew up with Mac Miller; we all did. I played “Blue Slide Park” on my walk to school in sixth grade and made sure I did not turn it off until I was a few feet into the classroom so everyone would hear it and think I was cool.

“GO:OD AM” was the only album you could hear in my car during September of 2015. I was a superfan when he was alive, but it did not hit me until he died that Mac Miller was the greatest musician of our generation.

He began releasing music and rose to the public perception in high school. From there, the world got to watch him grow and mature through his music. He was the best in the industry at communicating his feelings and true self through his music. Everything he released was intentional and raw. Even fellow musicians were impressed and in awe of his ability.

The beauty of Mac Miller was that he was a constant work in progress. He did not come out of the womb a generational talent.

One of the greatest things about him was that fans early to the scene got to watch him grow and develop from a frat boy party rapper to a deep artist who created art. That maturation is rare and a prime example of why he deserves the crown of greatest musician of our generation.

His first big project, “K.I.D.S.” was filled with references to girls, drugs

and partying. His lyrics were an accurate reflection of his life at the time, but they were also the attributes of a mainstream artist.

Thus, Mac Miller was branded as a mainstream, white boy, frat rapper in danger of becoming a flash in the pan. If “K.I.D.S.” is the origin of his career, then the set he performed on NPR’s Tiny Desk series is the bookend.

He sat on a stool and timidly surveyed the room. He spoke quietly and thoughtfully about what went into making his last album. The

When asked about the contrast between his first two albums in an interview with Noisey, Mac Miller said, “I didn’t want to be the Adam Sandler of rap anymore.”

In that same interview he said he did more growing during the nine months it took to record “Watching Movies with the Sound Off” than he had ever done before. Mac Miller made another leap in maturation in 2015 with the release of his third studio album “GO:OD AM.”

The album opens with

Everything they make is the same recycled lyrics over the same recycled beats.

The same goes for most mainstream rappers. Lil Pump is fun to play at a party, but he will put out the same music in five years that he does now.

Mac Miller’s ability to evolve his music and experiment with new sounds is why he was able to stay relevant for so long. He refused to let himself fade from the upper echelon of rappers. Mac Miller was unprecedented.

During a period where

counterparts in the industry are brave enough to share the deepest parts of themselves with the world the way Mac was.

In the opening song of his last album, Swimming, Mac has a monologue about his past and dealing with his depression. He says, “I was drowning, but now I’m swimming.” He conquered the demons that used to suffocate him not by killing them but by making peace with them. Pulling back the curtain and telling the world about his demons was a consis-

a teary-eyed rant on the danger of drugs before dedicating the show to Mac.

Chance the Rapper tweeted, “beyond helping me launch my career he was one of the sweetest guys I ever knew. Great man. I loved him for real. I’m completely broken. God bless him.”

Musicians all over shared their sorrow over social media simply because they were fans of Mac.

Halsey said in an Instagram caption, “Thank you for being the soundtrack to my high school years. For giving me songs I knew every single word to and screamed at the top of my lungs in my first car the year I got my license.”

Seemingly every rapper had some connection to Mac, whether they worked with him or were simply fans. Mac Miller’s influence transcended genre. He touched everyone from John Mayer to Jay Z, shaping the music landscape and cementing himself as the greatest musician of our generation.

A kid from Pittsburgh went from passing out mixtapes in the hallways and rap-battling kids in the school parking lot in the hopes of getting on World Star to earning the title of greatest rapper of our generation.

His earned a seat at the table of legends through a rare ability to develop his music and experiment with new sounds.

The boy rapping about girls and parties in 2009 grew to become a man rapping about drug abuse and demons in his final days, showcasing a nearly unprecedented evolution.

His brutal honesty and ability to cater to his die-hard fan base formed a close bond between artist and listener, which brought him critics and popular praise.

Finally, his influence over the music landscape through artists like Chance the Rapper, Post Malone and Ariana Grande, who he helped develop, solidify his legacy as the greatest musician of our generation.

This is a paper. It does not make noise, but I imagine if it did, the outro would go something like the opening beat to “Best Day Ever.”

A quiet ringing like that of a cell phone or alarm clock would be heard in the background. It would slowly repeat every few seconds, growing louder and louder. A soft hum would play underneath as the beat came into the foreground.

A fifteen second crescendo of mixtape masterpiece would give way to a raspy, upbeat Mac Miller singing, “No matter where life takes me, find me with a smile / Pursuit to be happy, only laughing like a child / I never thought life would be this sweet / It got me cheesin’ from cheek to cheek.”



Courtesy of Creative Commons

Mac Miller performing

man on the stool with baggage in his past and rings around his eyes appeared to be a far contrast from the wide-eyed, naive kid who rapped, “Kool-Aid and frozen pizza, it’s a work of art ain’t talkin’ Mona Lisa.”

His development from boy to man and rapper to musician is what made him great. He defied all the labels placed on him in his early days. His second studio album, “Watching Movies with the Sound Off,” was a steep contrast from his first project. The upbeat, optimistic rapper the world thought it knew was replaced with someone more mellow, seemingly weighed down by life.

Although the albums were only two years apart, fans could tell Mac was not in the same happy place he used to be. Instead of hiding his demons from the world, he exercised them in the booth and shined a light on them.

a fluttering beat and a soft verse about Mac returning to his roots. He sounds as if he is snapped out of his funk and conquered his demons. An alarm clock blares at the end of the opening track and a woman says, “good morning baby.”

The album is a renaissance of sorts. It is the end of his depression and the rebirth of the rapper the world initially fell in love with. He is not the same man he was when he started rapping; he is a better, more mature version that benefited from going through hard times. His demons are far from gone, but he is at peace.

The growth he displayed over the course of his five studio albums is a reason why he was the greatest musician of our generation.

Migos could never show that kind of development. They are the same guys now that they were when they released “YRN” in 2013.

his peers put out the same music every year trying to generate a few hits, he sat back and made genuinely good music that mirrored his growth and development as a person.

The reason Mac Miller was able to captivate the music community with his evolution is because he was always honest with his music.

Fans were not just invested in him as an artist, they were invested in him as a person. That elevated him to a level of greatness few ever achieved.

The albums he put out were true reflections of who he was as a person. In 2011 when he released “Blue Slide Park,” he was a naive kid tantalized by what the world of fame would bring.

From there, his honesty with music during his development created a deeper bond with fans because they felt as though they really knew him. Few

tent theme in Mac’s music.

Another reason why Mac Miller was so great was because of his impact on fellow musicians.

His albums always featured a slew of talented artists, but he always demanded they bring the same heart and passion to the music he did.

That standard, along with his refusal to cater to the masses, is why you will never find a Drake or Migos feature.

Instead, he shaped musicians like J. Cole, Ariana Grande and Chance the Rapper. Without Mac, the entire rap scene would be different because many of the artists in it would not be who they are without him.

Post Malone tweeted in a heartfelt tribute to Mac, “You inspired me throughout high school, and I wouldn’t be where I was today without you.”

J. Cole opened his first show after Mac passed with